

### SOME TEACHER TRIALS

"No, no, no," said the teacher, growing somewhat exasperated, "a hyphen is a little dash which one employs, when writing, to join together two words which in ordinary, every-day speech are used as one."

She proceeded to give many examples, quoting, among others, the word "bird-cage." Then, having made the point quite clear, as she thought, she turned to Johnny Brown—usually the bright boy of the class—and said: "Now, Johnny, can you tell us why we put a hyphen in 'bird-cage'?"

Johnny really had not the faintest idea. As a matter of fact, instead of taking an interest in the lesson, he had been busily employed making a slate picture of the teacher and munching chocolates the while. Then suddenly inspiration came to him.

"Why, of course," he exclaimed, "for the bird to sit on!"



### A TALE OF A HAT

Things seemed to be going against Mike. A mountain of circumstantial evidence had been brought against him to prove him guilty of an awful crime. Then was produced in court a hat, found at the scene of the crime, which had been bought at the shop Mike usually patronized and which fitted him to a T.

Still Mike swore that he had not been within five miles of the place on the night in question, and so vehement were his protestations that, contrary to the evidence, the jury acquitted him. Yet still Mike lingered in the dock.

"Why don't you go, my man?" asked the judge. "You need not stay there no longer!"

But Mike stood his ground.

"I'm wishful for to go, yer honor," said he. "But before I do, I'll be troublin' you for my hat, if yer please!"

### NOT TAKING ANY

Farmer Flitch was at his wits' end. The hay was ready to be cut and stacked, but labor was so scarce that he could not get enough men to do the work.

He had scoured the countryside, but was still three men short. At last, in sheer desperation, he asked Bill Bones, generally considered the village idiot, if he would not like a fortnight's work.

"What wages will you pay?" he asked suspiciously.

"I'll pay you whatever you're worth!" said Flitch, in a burst of generosity.

Bill considered the matter for a few moments. At last:

"No, no!" said he. "I'll be hanged if I'll work for less than the other men get!"

### HOME WORK

"Has your famous wife given up lecturing since you married her?"

"Only in public."—N. Y. World.